Appl. No. 10/081,877
Amdt. dated October 20, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 18, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requiring that FIG. 2 be labeled as "prior art". In response, applicants so amend the drawing figure.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being incomplete. The Examiner wants the claims to include laminating structure. Applicants respond to this by adding phrases to the preamble of claim 1 and more explicitly reciting some elements already implied in claim 2 (such as the motor and the rollers). Accordingly, the claims are respectfully submitted to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Examiner rejects claim 2 as being anticipated by 4 separate documents, Kuhns et al (U.S. 5,716,490), Spitko (U.S. 6,026,884), Clark et al (U.S. 5,584,932) and Williams (U.S. 4,806,183). With regard to each document, the Examiner states that these documents show a speed control system capable of providing slow start and stop.

Applicants respectfully traverse and respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. Kuhns does not teach providing slow start and stop. Instead, what this document teaches is that a laminating apparatus can rotate the rollers at different speeds so that in the case of first running lamination projects through the device that are large in size and require a higher temperature, a second set of lamination projects that may be of

smaller area and therefore require a lower heat to avoid overheating can be run through the machine without having to wait a long period of time for the machine to cool down by increasing the speed of rotation of the rollers so that the smaller project items pass through quickly and do not overheat. This is not related to the applicants' slow start and stop concept. Therefore it cannot anticipate nor suggest what applicants claim.

Spitko makes no mention of it being desirable to provide a slow start and stop. It only states that a speed controller is provided. It is the applicants' teaching that provides the knowledge of the desirable effects of slow start and stop. Thus it is respectfully submitted that this document cannot anticipate nor suggest the claim.

Clark never mentions the concept of slow start and stop. It mentions precise speed control, but it is not appreciative of the slow start and stop concept of the claimed applicants' invention. It also cannot therefore anticipate nor suggest the claimed invention.

Finally, Williams does not mention slow start and stop. It only discusses speed control to apply desired adhesive amounts and have precise amounts be accurately distributed. This would not teach or suggest what applicants claim.

In view of the above comments on these documents, applicants respectfully submit that these documents do not

anticipate claim 2, nor do they suggest claim 2, and therefore claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 1 is rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Steinberg et al (U.S. 6,129,796) in view of Stanford (U.S. 4,040,043)

The Steinberg et al patent is not directed to laminating film as alleged by the Examiner, but instead is a device for dispensing and labeling cord or rope for retail sale. The Examiner alleges that this patent teaches means to measure the length of the substrate and to input the whole length of the substrate and subtract the measured value drawn out.

This patent does not explicitly mention doing this however. And, even if one could argue, perhaps, that in column 5, lines 6-9, that the measurement of the cord being fed into a computer for tracking inventory might suggest what applicants are doing, together with the text in column 5, lines 33-35 which states that indicia 15b on the bar code label printed by the system "preferably includes the measurement of the cord remaining on the spool after the selected length has been dispensed", as the Examiner notes, Steinberg does not teach an alarm system to warn of the subtracted value reaching a designated level, and includes Stanford (U.S. 4,040,043) to provide teaching of such an alarm.

However, applicants respectfully do not agree that the combination would result in the claimed invention of claim 1.

Stanford employs a mechanical sensor arm to determine approximately the remaining diameter of the roll. It does not employ a subtracted measured dispensed value and sound an alarm if such subtracted value reaches a designated level. It merely employs a mechanical positional sensor, and when the roll diameter is sufficiently small, the sensor will have moved to an alarm position. A subtracted value is not employed in operating the alarm. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination presented by the Examiner does not result in the claimed invention. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 1 is amended herein to clarify that the alarm system is responsive to the resultant value in generating the alarm.

Also, included herein are a new claim 3, that adds the concept of plural different levels of warning mentioned in the English specification as filed in the U.S. at page 6, line 35 through page 7, line 5 and a new claim 4 that adds that the warnings at the different levels are different warnings. These claims are also submitted to be allowable in over the prior art.

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In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicants' attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions or if further information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated sheet showing changes

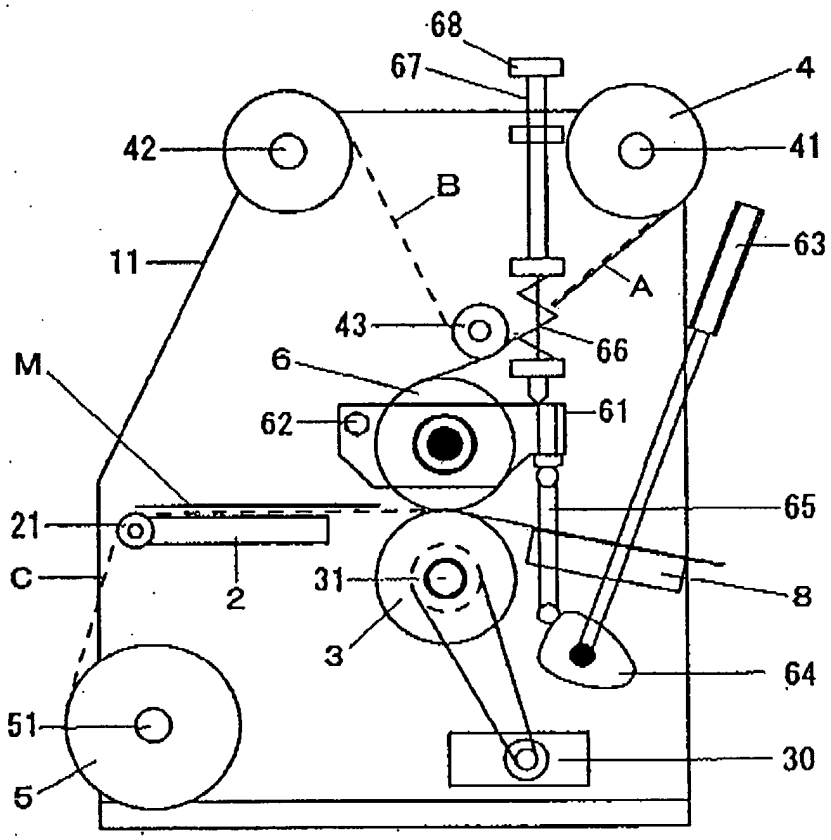

FIG. 2
PRIOR ART

← Thru Add